

University College London

SURVEY OF ENGLISH USAGE

Annual Report 1963-4

I FINANCE

The application (noted in the last Report) to the Research Department of the Ministry of Education has resulted in a grant of £2000 a year, for three years in the first instance. In consequence, we have been able to appoint a much-needed Senior Research Assistant as Assistant Director of the Survey, and this appointment will not only ensure better staff training and continuity but will also enable us to attempt a faster output of advanced work.

The Ford Foundation grant of \$28,000 in 1962, from which the Survey benefits indirectly, was supplemented to the extent of \$18,200 in November 1963, and the spending of this money can be spread over the period to November 1965. During the past session, money from this grant has been used not only to provide English Language studentships in the Diploma programme (Mr N. Fairclough and Mr J. Mountford were especially engaged in work associated with the Survey), but also to finance a special lectureship in transformational

grammar for the whole session (a post held by Dr D.A. Reibel, formerly of Indiana), and a visiting professorship for one term to Dr Sarah Gudschinsky, of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, who held graduate classes in tagmemics. Dr Reibel's and Dr Gudschinsky's seminars were regularly attended by those working on the Survey and our work has greatly profited from the close contact they provided with the two leading approaches to linguistics.

Since the Ford grant is not made primarily to the Survey, it is omitted as last year from the statement of income that follows. It should further be noted that, although the DSIR grant is included below, the money from this source is devoted to a specific sub-project in computational linguistics and should not be regarded as general Survey income.

Statement of Income

DSIR (potential: not yet wholly claimed)	£2000
Ministry of Education (potential: not yet wholly claimed)	£2000
Longmans Green (fourth instalment)	£2000
Cambridge University Press	£ 250
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	£6250
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Statement of Expenditure

Salaries, insurance etc.	£4310
to Mr J. Svartvik (fulltime since 1 March 1964)	
Mr H.T. Carvell	
Miss J. Godfrey	
Mr D. Davy	
Miss J. Mulholland (part-time)	
Miss J. Evetts (part-time)	
Equipment, books, repairs and maintenance	£251
College administrative charges	£145
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	£4706
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The considerably more favourable relation of income and expenditure this year will be short-lived, and is largely accounted for by the fact that we have not yet proceeded with the purchase of the more expensive equipment (approximately £2000) for the DSIR sub-project and also by the fact that the Assistant Director's post was filled only in March. These items will considerably raise expenditure for next year, as also will salary increases to other members of the research staff in accordance with the general adjustment of salaries to university staffs.

II GENERAL

Mr H.T. Carvell joined us in October 1963 to undertake

the DSIR sub-project and quickly established close links with the University Institute of Computer Science whose Director, Professor R.A. Buckingham, and staff increased still further the invaluable help they have given the Survey since 1962. At the same time, Mr Derek Davy joined the staff as Research Assistant in place of Mr Crystal whose work in charge of the speech-transcription he undertook with speedy competence. Mr Davy has since been appointed Assistant Lecturer in the English Department but it is good to report that he will continue to devote his entire research time to the Survey.

In March 1964, Mr Svartvik surrendered his Swedish doctorandstipendium and with it his part-time work on the Survey to accept the Assistant Directorship (with the rank of Lecturer in the English Department), the first senior post to become established on Survey funds and for which we are grateful to the Research Department of the Ministry of Education.

Miss Godfrey, who has continued to be responsible for first-stage filing, has been joined since early in 1964 by Miss J. Evetts, a graduate of the Department, as part-time assistant. Miss Mulholland, who, in addition to her part-time secretarial duties, has been doing more and more work of a technical research

character, is fittingly promoted Research Assistant from the end of the current session.

Our general position in relation to the research staff is thus considerably stronger than it has been hitherto. We have made up for the losses through resignations in the past two years, established a healthy continuity (particularly through Mr Svartvik), and strengthened our financial position to a degree that may ensure our ability to make longer periods of service on the Survey more practicable and attractive.

III THE YEAR'S WORK

An impressive amount has been done on the DSIR sub-project. Mr Carvell joined in several courses at the Institute of Computer Science and soon became familiar with the operation of the computer services provided by the Institute. Through the kind co-operation of Dr R. Needham (University of Cambridge), Dr P.H.A. Sneath (Medical Research Council), and Mr J.C. Gower (Rothamsted Experimental Station), he undertook experiments with several computer programs designed to serve various taxonomic purposes. In addition, he has himself written a successful tabulation program for use on computer output materials. Using the prepositional-phrase material as preliminarily analysed by Mr Svartvik in relation to the verbal group

and working in close collaboration with Mr Svartvik, Mr Carvell has embarked on an extensive inquiry into general taxonomy which seems likely to yield results of great interest - especially, of course, for linguistic analysis. The first part of a working paper on 'Linguistic Classification and Numerical Taxonomy' has been prepared and is being circulated to interested linguists, biologists, and others. The foundation of the Classification Society this year is happily coincidental with the development of this aspect of the Survey's work, and three of the Survey staff have joined the Society.

Several texts of spoken English have been transcribed in prosodic detail by Mr Davy with the assistance of Miss Mulholland, and three such texts, together with one scientific text, one philosophical, and one from printed news material have been dispersed in first stage filing by Miss Godfrey, assisted by Miss Evetts. Several members of the staff have been involved in further expanding and revising the work-book which is the procedure guide in first-stage filing. Several again - but notably Mr Svartvik - have contributed to expansion and refinement of the second-stage work-book.

In collaboration with Mr Crystal, the Director

completed a study of prosodic and paralinguistic features and with Miss Mulholland a study of 'complex prepositions'. Mr Svartvik has made excellent progress with his book on the category 'voice' in English grammar, using computational, matrix and other techniques. Miss Godfrey continued work for her thesis on the verbal group and Mr Davy has begun a study of intonation patterns in written materials read aloud.

Graduate students in the Department working in association with the Survey have completed some useful dissertations: G.W. Turner (on intonation), D. Chițor (on collocation and meaning), V. Ivir (on the predicat use of adjective and participle). Other relevant dissertations now in progress include N. Fairclough's study of collocated lexical items and particles, E. Abberton's work on the premodification structure of nominal groups, R. Bugarski's on polarity and metaphor in prepositional use, and F. Miroiu's on the genitive.

The Director gave the Inaugural Lecture of the National Association for the Teaching of English, lectured on language and communication to the Institut of Directors, made a 30-minute television film on the same subject for Granada, broadcast on current developments in English, read a paper on 'Variation in

Standards' to the Second Language Conference in Rome and a paper on 'Serial Relationship in English Grammar to the Croatian Philological Society in Zagreb, visits Greek and Yugoslav universities to report on the teaching of English, collaborated with A.H. Marckwardt of Princeton on twelve talks on British and American English, lectured at Sheffield on the Survey, and completed his part in the Lockwood Committee's work on English language examining.

Mr Svartvik lectured on the Survey to students of the Cheshire County Training College, and read a paper at the University of Hull on methods in grammatical research. Mr Davy lectured on the Survey to the students of Whitelands College, Putney.

With the Survey materials as extensive as they now are and with our analysis having made the progress it has, we must expect an increase in the requests to visit and inspect the Survey, and to make use of our materials. While valuing the resultant contacts and welcoming the opportunity to help fellow linguists, the pressure on our time and on our very restricted space - quite apart from other obvious considerations must inevitably oblige us to limit the access to our materials. We feel that colleagues in other College departments (notably the Communication Research

Centre and the Department of Phonetics) should have facilities to make as free use of our resources as possible, and we have been happy to give such unlimited facilities to several of Dr Halliday's students. But while hitherto we have similarly treated students of other universities (and even allowed them to have copies of our texts), our crowded conditions and limited resources in time and money will force us to be very selective in this respect for the future.

Naturally, we shall continue to welcome as many linguists from other institutions as possible, and among the visits which were of particular interest to us in the past year we would mention those - length repeated, or brief - of the following scholars:

- Mr A. Ginges (University of New South Wales), six months;
- Dr M. Renský (Czech Academy of Sciences), one month;
- Dr A. Schopf (Munich), one month;
- Mr S. Rajkhowa (Assam);
- Mr J.W. Brigstocke (Leeds);
- Mr M. Gregory (Leeds);
- Dr P. Minkus (Leeds);
- Mr S. Spicer (Leeds);
- Mr R.W. Burchfield (Oxford);
- Sir Ernest Gowers;
- Dr J. van Ek (Groningen);

Professor A.A. Prins (Leiden);
Professor G.C. Bannerjee (Bombay);
Professor A. Bose (Calcutta);
Professor M. Ghani (Bangalore);
Professor Y. Ikegami (Tokyo);
Professor T. Matsunami (Tokyo);
Professor F. Behre (Gothenburg);
Dr S. Jacobson (Uppsala).

IV RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

- D. Crystal, 'A Perspective for Paralanguage', Le Maître Phonétique, vol 78 (1963), pp. 25-29.
- R. Quirk, 'The English Language Problem', Bulletin of the National Association for the Teaching of English, vol 1 (1964), pp. 7-12.
- J. Svartvik, 'From Phoneme to Transform', Moderna Språk vol 57 (1963), pp. 300-8.
- 'Participles', English Language Teaching, vol 18 (1964), p. 133.
- J. Svartvik & H.T. Carvell, 'Linguistic Classification and Numerical Taxonomy' (mimeographed working paper Par)
- J. Godfrey, 'A New Look at English', New Phineas, vol 2 (1964), pp. 9-12.
- 'The Survey of English Usage', English Language Teaching (at press).

R. Quirk & D. Crystal, 'On Scales of Contrast in Connected English Speech' (Firth Memorial Volume, Longmans: at press).

----- Systems of Prosodic and Paralinguistic Features in English (Mouton: at press)

R. Quirk & J. Mulholland, 'Complex Prepositions and Related Structures', English Studies (at press).

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RANDOLPH QUIRK